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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER CORN-BORER CONTROL ADOPTED

Recommendations for a permanent program of effective corn-borer control within reach of profitable farming conditions were passed upon and adopted at a conference of corn-borer officials and representatives from the States interested in the control of the borer on July 20 and 21 in Toledo.

The recommendations were in two parts, those covering the official regulations and those covering the educational program. A committee of 10 was appointed from representatives of the regulatory forces and a committee of 10 from the educational workers to review the recommendations before they were presented to the general conference.

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS

Recommendations for official regulations as adopted were based on the regulations in force during the recent clean-up campaign, with the following additional exemptions: Clean cornfields in which the corn stubble has not been loosened from the ground and is not more than 2 inches above the soil surface, and cornfields in the areas of less than 1 per cent infestation covered by special provisions which may be agreed upon by State and Federal authorities prior to September 1, 1927.

The regulatory recommendations in full were as follows.

12408

1490

The Regulations

All corn-crop parts, all corn-crop remnants, and all corn-crop residues of form and condition to harbor living European corn borers of each year's corn crop in fields, gardens, barns, barnyards, feeding sheds or feed lots, around canning factories and grain elevators, in or about stockyards, stock pens, loading chutes, and similar places, and all coarse-stemmed weeds within cornfields, shall be destroyed, unless herein exempted, (a) preferably by burning before May 1 of the year succeeding the growth of that corn or (b) such material shall be so treated or handled by regular or by special field procedure prior to May 1 of the year succeeding the growth of that corn as to insure that, between May 1 and July 10 of that year, no portion of such material or trash in condition to harbor living European corn borers shall appear on the surface of the field after it has been plowed, or disked, or harrowed, or planted, or cultivated.

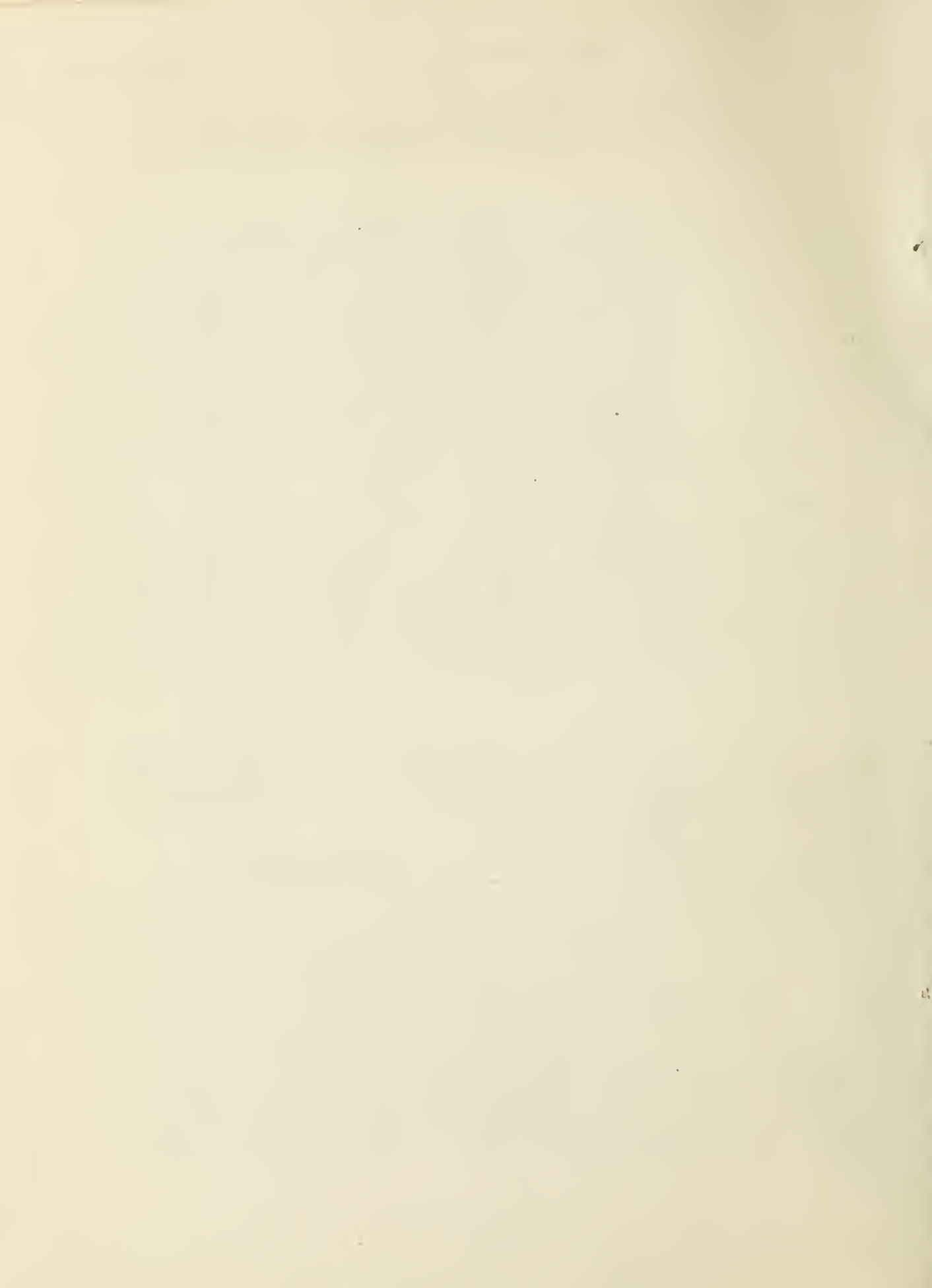
EXEMPTIONS The following conditions are exempted from the provisions: (a) Ear corn being stored for the grain attached thereto, (b) fast corn stubble, in clean cornfields, which is not more than 2 inches in height above the soil surface, (c) corn-crop parts, remnants, and residues which are made into ensilage, finely shredded ~~or ground~~, completely plowed under, burned, or tramped into and deeply covered by manure, (d) conditions covered by special provisions which may be agreed upon by State and Federal authorities prior to September 1, 1927, applying to areas of less than 1 per cent infestation.



Recommendations for an educational program worked out at the extension conference stated:

"The extension services of the several States recognize the serious situation caused by the spread of the European corn borer in the Corn Belt and will direct the full force of the organization into an educational campaign to bring a-

bout effective control. Although the situation is serious, it should not be alarming. It is believed that farm practices now will be developed which will enable the farmer of the Corn Belt to continue the production of corn. It is recognized that farm practices must be changed to meet the conditions brought about by the infestation."



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

To assist the farmer with his control problems the following methods were recommended for this fall:

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING (1) Plowing contests.
(2) Plowing demonstrations.
(3) Low-cutting demonstrations.

DAIRYING AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (1) The use of silos on all farms having 10 or more cows or their equivalent.
(2) The shredding of fodder where the livestock on the farm can profitably utilize the shredded fodder either for feed or bedding.
(3) The production of one acre of legume hay for each mature beef or dairy cow.

FARM MANAGEMENT "The farm-management program should be designed to give to the farmers in each of the many types of farming areas infested with the corn borer continuously up-to-date information as to the adjustments in both farm organization and practice that will enable them to make the best returns. Special research studies to assemble the facts and information not now available in so far as they can be determined at this time, should be inaugurated immediately in infested areas where corn is an important crop in the systems of farming."

AGRONOMY The conference agreed that, at the present time, there is nothing to warrant recommending changes from the ordinary profitable practice in the actual production of corn.

A permanent program of instruction advocating practical control measures that can be applied the year round.

ENTOMOLOGY Instruction to be based on facts determined through research and administered through county extension agents.

County tours in September to heavily infested fields located in northern Ohio or Ontario.

INFORMATIONAL AND NEWS SERVICE To be a supporting organization, predominantly of an educational nature.

To continue throughout the year.

To continue the illustrated news service conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



HIGH SPOTS AT TOLEDO

Q. Who were there?

Ans. Those in administrative charge of the extension and regulatory phases of corn-borer control in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana; specialists in farm-management, agronomy, livestock, dairy, entomology, news, and agricultural engineering from these same States; also entomologists and State department of agriculture representatives from other States with their eye on the borer, i.e., Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The United States Department of Agriculture was represented by Assistant Secretary Dunlap, Dr. A. F. Woods, Dr. W. H. Larrimer, Dr. C. B. Smith, G. W. Farrell, and by practically the entire department committee on corn-borer research, including Dr. C. R. Ball, the chairman. L. H. Worthley and his Toledo staff, of course, were in attendance.



In the conference of regulatory workers, Michigan and Pennsylvania voted for regulations similar to those in effect this year. New York and Ohio favored less stringent regulations for 1928.

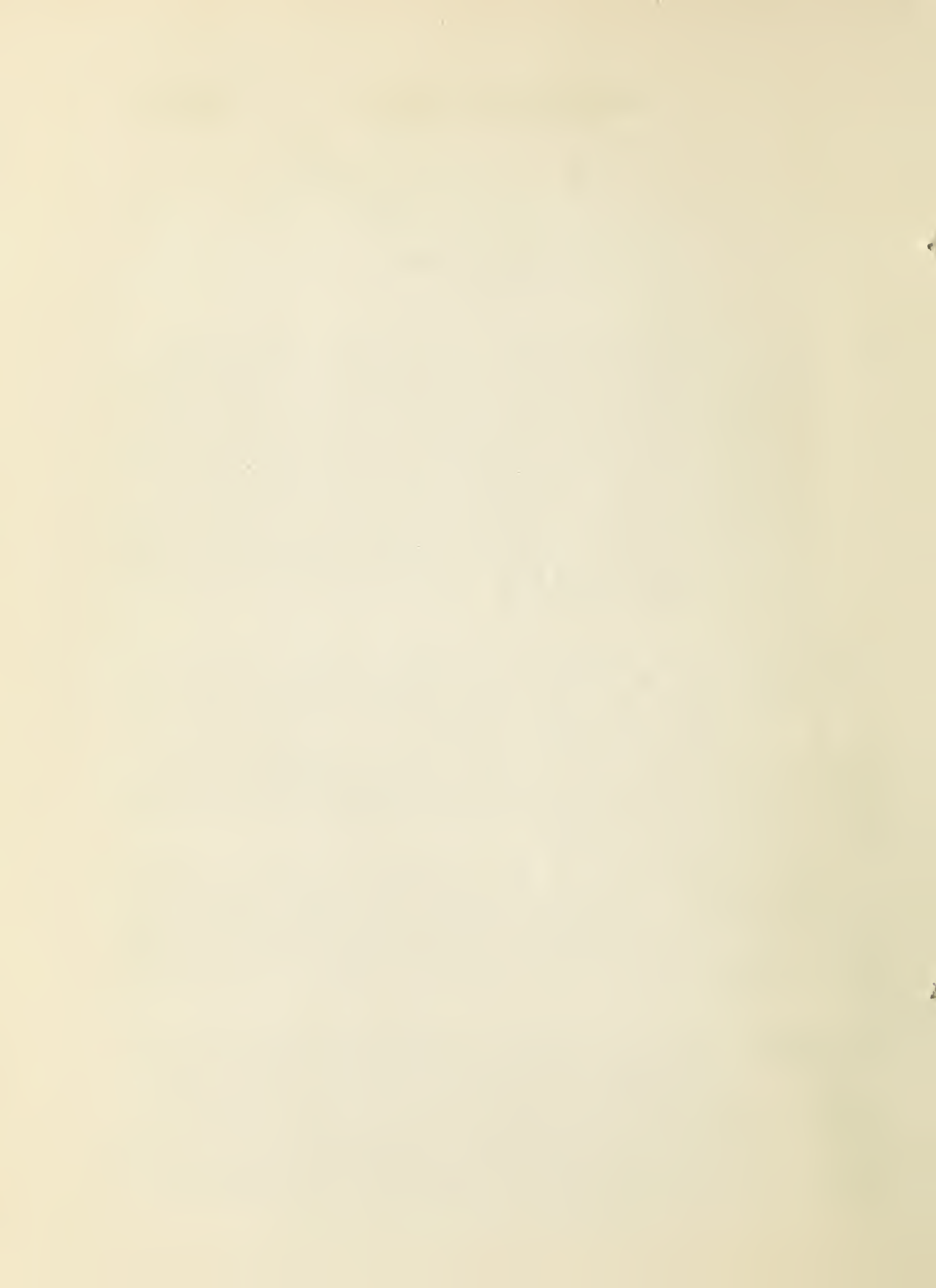
Suggestions made by Ohio that the use of oil burners be restricted met with unqualified approval, as did suggestions that the stubble beater be used only in the fall at the option of the farmer, and that all regulations governing control work up to July 1, 1928, be issued not later than September 1, 1927.

~~TUNING IN ON THE~~ ~~EDUCATIONALS~~

The conference of extension and research workers brought out the great need of more information on subjects upon which at the present time there is a lack of experimental data and that the intensive work carried on during the campaign resulted in extension practices becoming more widely adopted than ever before.

OHIO STUDIES THE SITUATION

Ohio, which has the heaviest infestation of corn borers and the largest area included in the control campaign, has made a careful study of ways and means of control based on the practical experience gained during the recent campaign. The report was prepared by the extension service of the Ohio State University in cooperation with the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and the county corn-borer committees, representing the opinions of the men who have been carrying out the work in the field. A great many of the suggestions were incorporated in the recommendations of the conference.



BORER MOTH SCOUTS LIGHT TRAP

Artificial lights or baits fail to attract the corn-borer moth to any great extent, according to repeated experiments performed by the Bureau of Entomology, said Dr. W. H. Larrimer, entomologist in charge of cereal and forage insect investigations.

Light of different types and colors, gasoline and kerosene lanterns, acetylene lights, and electric lights of white, yellow, blue green, red, and violet have been used in these experiments which have been carried on in fields where moths were very numerous and during the season of greatest activity, but very few of the moths have been attracted to the traps.

In a recent test at Monroe, Mich., a light trap was set for five nights and during that time caught only 50 females and 20 male borer moths. In this same 4-acre field, scouts collected 1,000 egg masses.

Not much success was had in trapping the moths by the use of different kinds of baits, according to Doctor Larrimer. The corn-borer moths were not attracted in any significant numbers to various sirups, fresh or decaying fruit, honey, stale "near beer," or to various aromatic oils.

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AS MR. WORTHLEY SAID,

"Paying off the farmer
is a big job.

In fact, it is almost as big a problem as any encountered during the campaign; but with a special force of workers in Toledo the work is going steadily ahead, and about 100,000 vouchers have already been forwarded to Washington."

In Washington another corps of workers is making every effort to handle them quickly and with as little red tape as possible, with the result that

5,000 checks every day
are put into the mails for the farmers
who completed their clean-up
satisfactorily.

